



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue #13

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

6 August 2009

Pest Patrol Hotline

A summary of current problems with insects is available this season via a toll-free hotline. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Cotton Situation

As of 3 August 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 54% of the crop with bolls set, about equal with where we were last year at 56% and the 5-yr average of 54%. Conditions were described as 1% excellent, 61% good, 37% fair, 1% poor, and 0% very poor for the crop. Recent rainfall has certainly helped, and the report is better this week than last week. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Situation

As of 3 August 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 50% of the crop reported as blooming, behind where we were last year at 55% and the 5-yr average of 60%. About 17% of the crop is setting pods, behind where we were last year at 20% and for the 5-yr average of 25%. Conditions were described as 0% excellent, 54% good, 41% fair, 4% poor, and 1% very poor. Again, recent rains have helped considerably. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

News from Above the Lakes

Randy Cabbage, county agent covering Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter Counties, informed me last week that he is hearing about caterpillars in MG V soybeans in his area. He also stated that "some have already been spraying soybeans, particularly where earworms have been found on terminals of smaller beans...worms on the smaller bean terminals are not normal in our area... Several are [also] applying fungicides."

News from Below the Lakes

I am getting numerous reports of fall armyworms (FAW) in cotton. Concerned consultants have called me about FAW, reporting numbers too high to let go. Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, also reported issues with FAW in cotton. Reports from Tommy Walker, county agent covering Allendale, Hampton, and Jasper Counties, are focused on FAW as well, particularly in Bollgard cotton (i.e. DP 555). Bollgard II cotton sprayed with pyrethroid for stink bugs (and any escaped bollworms) seems to be holding off FAW in most places down south. In DP 555, the FAW problem is evident. Tommy is seeing FAW at 15/100 plants in many places in northern Hampton County and 30 FAW/100 plants in fields lower in the county. Our threshold is 10 FAW/100 plants, checking in blooms, looking for feeding to boll bracts, and

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shaking with a drop cloth. He is seeing few to no FAW seen behind recent applications of a pyrethroid + Diamond at 9 oz. Use a drop cloth and check blooms for FAW – now is the time. Make sure you look in DP 555 to check for FAW, and consider a tank-mix of pyrethroid + Diamond at 6 oz. This treatment combination has worked before, but another option might be a tank-mix of pyrethroid + 4 oz Intrepid. Also, Tommy mentioned that spider mites are showing up in places. He is also seeing many stink bugs in peanuts, so that might translate into late-season problems with stink bugs in cotton and soybeans if they build and decide to move. Other issues I discussed with Tommy were control problems with insecticides and rain fastness of various materials. Are some of our pyrethroid applications getting washed off by afternoon showers? Also, we certainly do have problems with coverage in tall cotton, so some control problems might be due to failure to get the pesticide down into the canopy. Jonathan Croft, count agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported that bollworms are working toward threshold in MG VII soybeans and that applications of insecticide + fungicide for stink bugs and diseases, respectively, are imminent. Most of the MG V and VI soybeans in his counties have already been treated with a fungicide and pyrethroid. He also stated that peanuts are loading up with caterpillars.

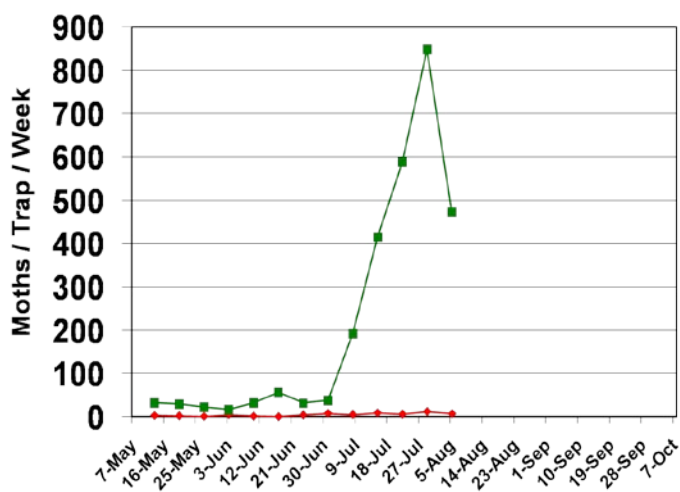
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



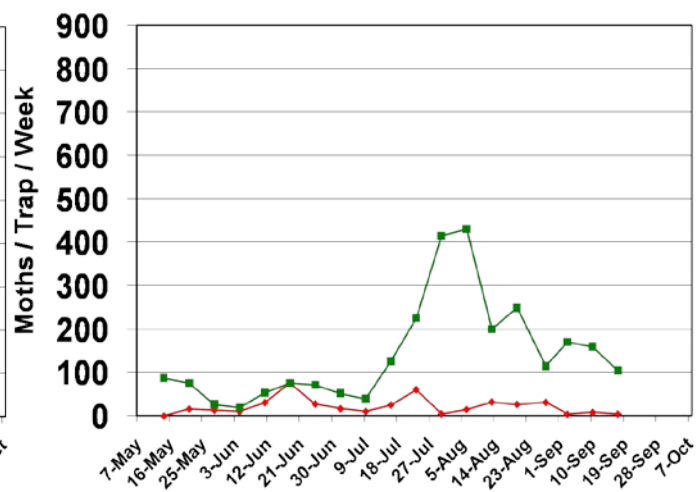
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. We trapped over 4,700 BW moths in 10 traps this past week to give us about 470/trap/wk. We averaged about 7 TBW moths per trap this past week. Captures of BW moths have decreased somewhat but are still higher than the highest weekly capture for all of last year. Continue to check for bollworm escapes in Bollgard, Bollgard II, and WideStrike cotton varieties and use recommended thresholds. Continue to monitor for BW in soybeans also. We might see prolonged pressure from BW this season.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2008



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2009 SC Cotton Growers' Guide, Pest Management Handbook, and Insect Control Guides

The 2009 South Carolina Cotton Growers' Guide is available from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/EC589.PDF>.

The 2009 Pest Management Handbook is available in limited quantities. Contact your local county office for availability. A \$10 fee might be charged for the handbook. You can also download the handbook from: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Clemson University Publications IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) and SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) are available free from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF> and <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpage to view important recommendations for cotton and soybean insect management, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Associate Professor – Entomologist



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